



Aruba welcome famed architects for the 3<sup>rd</sup> FCAA Congress  
*Combined with Expo Cas 2006 and Expo-Arte it will provide a complete experience*

Wednesday evening, June 14 will be the official opening ceremonies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the Federation of Caribbean Associations of Architects, taking place in the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad. This prestigious organization has chosen Aruba for their meeting this year, and the Keynote Speakers will be two of the most renowned architects in the world, C.C. Pei of Pei Partnership Architects and John Diebboll, Principal and Lead Designer at Michael Graves & Associates in New York City, one of the top architectural firms in the world. C.C. Pei is a principle partner along with Li Chung Pei, of Pei Partnership Architects, and are both sons of I.M. Pei, now retired, the man famous for designing the pyramid at the Louvre, in Paris. Both sons were for many years members of their father's firm and earned well deserved fame of their own around the world for their innovative designs.

The theme of the congress will be "The Impact of Tourism on Architecture and Vice/Versa." Congress organizers in Aruba, Leo Ponson and Orlando Hoevertsz outlined the three pillars of the congress that will take place over Thursday and Friday, June 15 and 16, consisting of lectures and workshops. There will be nine guest speakers aside from the keynote speakers including Jacob Gelt Dekker of Kura Hulanda Resort & Spa in Curacao, Eduardo de Veer of the Renaissance Resort in Aruba, Castro Lurito of Costa Rica and Robert Coleman from the United States. Organizers state they expect to welcome at least 100 representatives from top architectural firms around the Caribbean to Aruba.

Adjacent to and in cooperation with the FCAA congress, the Expo Cas 2006, organized by Clayton and Stanley Brown of Multi Media International will share the rooms at the Renaissance Convention Center. The Brown Brothers have brought together construction specialists, material suppliers, security services, architects and interior designers in what will be the largest, most diverse, and complete home expo to date in Aruba. Nearly fifty agencies will have booths set up for the expo, which will be open to the public on Thursday and Friday evenings from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Saturday it will be open the entire day from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM. The Brown brothers promise that it will be a very exciting and informative expo, with vendors from not only Aruba, but the U.S. and other countries as well, and that door prizes will be awarded regularly throughout the opening hours. The entrance fee is a modest five Aruban Florins (\$2.85 U.S.) During a press conference they also mentioned there are still booths available, and interested parties can contact them at 583-5039 if they wish to participate.

The third "pillar" of the FCAA congress will be an Expo-Arte with curator Gilbert Senchi of the South End Art Gallery in San Nicolas. Working with Alice van Romondt, Gilbert has gathered together works by one dozen of Aruba's most noted artists. They have been challenged to produce works with the same theme of the congress, and Gilbert expressed that the artwork should be "quite intriguing."

Orlando Hoevertsz explained that the conference is specifically for FCAA members, but students from the MTS technical school that are studying to be architects have been invited to attend the lectures. He expressed the belief that the opportunity to listen to such world famous architects as C.C. Pei and Michael Diebboll is very unusual, particularly in Aruba, and it is a great honor to have them speak here. Individuals that are not FCAA members, but are interested in a career in architecture are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity to listen and meet two of the world's top architects by calling him at telephone number 593-1271, and arrangements can be made for attending the lectures. Detailed information about the schedule and speakers of the FCAA Third Congress can be obtained at the website: [www.3fcaa.com](http://www.3fcaa.com).